

Remarks at Kazan Cathedral and an Exchange With Reporters in St. Petersburg
April 19, 1996

The President. This morning, I have had three very moving experiences: first at the cemetery, the most powerful reminder imaginable about the heroism of the Russian soldiers and the devotion of Russian citizens to the freedom of this country, and then at the Russian Museum, a wonderful picture of the magnificent history of Russian art, and of course here at this cathedral with its remarkable story, a reminder of the power of belief in the spirit in Russian history and the Russian character.

These experiences remind us of Russia's past and its achievements of the present and the remarkable changes that are going on. They also give me great confidence in the future of this country and what we can accomplish together in the spirit of peace and mutual respect and genuine partnership. And so, I feel a great deal of gratitude to the people of St. Petersburg today for these experiences that I have shared with them, and I thank them for giving me the opportunity that I have enjoyed, especially this remarkable moment at the cathedral, learning of its past, its present and what we all hope will be its future.

Thank you.

Middle East Peace Process

Q. Mr. President, at a place of peace like this church, what thoughts might be coming—Mr. President, coming to a place of peace like this great cathedral, I wonder if it might bring to mind any thoughts for your peace effort in the Middle East.

The President. Well, I think that the parties have got to agree to a cease-fire. It's obvious that they're neighbors, and as we have seen in the terrible events of the last few days, once someone starts the spiral of violence, it's hard to stop. And because the rockets are fired from the areas they're fired from, it's almost impossible for innocent civilians not to be hurt and killed.

We had the situation there in hand, as you know, for more than 2 years because of the peace agreement that was brokered in '93

by the Secretary of State. He is going back there. Mr. Ross is there. We are doing our very best.

Q. Do you have any information that would lead you to believe that both sides will agree to the cease-fire and what's the status right now of the negotiations?

The President. Well, I'm getting regular updates. Mr. Ross is—I think he is actually there now. And the Secretary of State will go as quickly as he finishes his talks with the Chinese Foreign Minister, and obviously, we have direct contacts with all the parties involved. I think they are looking for a way to stop the fighting, and so I am somewhat hopeful.

I do believe they are looking for a way to stop it. I think that it's obvious now that there's almost no way to contain it or prevent the loss of innocent life once the rockets start firing and the retaliation begins. So I think we have a chance, and we are going to work very hard today and tomorrow and see if we can do it.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:05 p.m. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Proclamation 6886—National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week, 1996

April 19, 1996

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Thousands of lives have been saved by the miracle of organ and tissue transplantation, a medical procedure made possible only by the extraordinary generosity of those who agree to donate and the profound compassion of their loved ones. Recipients are often able to resume normal lives after their transplants, working and caring for their families, and many children are in school today due to a donated liver or bone marrow. Still, the need for organs far exceeds the number donated, and many Americans wait—and some will die waiting—for suitable organs or tissues to become available.

Although our Nation has a potentially adequate supply of organs and tissues, there are more than 45,000 patients on the national transplant waiting list, and some 2,000 new names are added each month. We must educate all Americans about transplantation and its successes and raise public awareness of the urgent need for increased donation. All of our citizens should know that by completing a donor card and carrying it, and particularly by making family members aware of the wish to donate, they may save the health, or even the life, of someone in need.

Americans are a caring people, and our Nation's citizens have always reached out to one another in times of trouble. Organ donation is a unique example of the spirit of giving, and many who have lost loved ones have found comfort in knowing that their loss means the promise of life for others. This week and throughout the year, let us recognize the advances made in organ and tissue transplant techniques, honor those who have already pledged their organs, and encourage people to make the life-giving decision to donate.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 21 through April 27, 1996, as National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week. I call upon health care professionals, educators, the media, public and private organizations concerned with organ donation and transplantation, and all the people of the United States to observe this week with appropriate activities and programs that promote organ donation and invite new donors to get involved.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this nineteenth day of April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twentieth.

William J. Clinton

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NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on April 23.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

April 14

In the late evening, the President and Hillary Clinton traveled to Anchorage, AK.

April 15

In the early morning, the President and Hillary Clinton departed from Anchorage, AK, en route to Cheju, South Korea.

The President announced his intention to nominate Victor Ashe to the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service.

April 16

In the early morning, the President and Hillary Clinton arrived in Cheju, South Korea.

In the afternoon, following the news conference, President Clinton and President Kim held a working lunch.

In the afternoon, the President and Hillary Clinton traveled to Tokyo, Japan. In the evening, they attended a dinner with Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto at the Akasaka Palace.

April 17

In the morning, the President and Hillary Clinton participated in a welcoming ceremony with Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko at the Akasaka Palace, followed by a state call and discussion with the Emperor and Empress at the Imperial Palace.

In the afternoon, the President and Hillary Clinton traveled from Tokyo to the U.S.S. *Independence* in Yokosuka. Later in the afternoon, they returned to Tokyo.

The President announced the selection of Lori Esposito Murray as Special Adviser to the President and Director on the Chemical Weapons Convention at the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency.

The President named Ana M. Guzman as Chair of the President's Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans.